

BROAD GAUGE TRAIN BETWEEN INDIA AND NEPAL



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Issue

A cross-border passenger train between Jaynagar in India and Kurtha in Nepal was flagged off by Indian and Nepali PM.

Background

This is the first cross-border broad gauge train service between both the countries and is 35 km long.

Details

- The railway project will pass through the Madhubani district of Bihar and the districts of Dhanusa, Mahottari, and Siraha in Nepal.
- The cost of constructing the railway line between Jaynagar and Kurtha was about Rs 383 crore.
- The railway line will be extended further to Bardibas in Nepal through an Indian grant of 548 crore. It will be operated by Nepal Railway Company (NRC).
- The Jaynagar-Kurtha of railway section is part of the 68.7 km Jaynagar-Bijalpura-Bardidas rail link. The services were stopped after devastating floods in Nepal in 2002.

Broad gauge railway

A railway line is said to be broad gauge if the distance between two railway sleepers is 5 ft 6 in (1676 mm) or any gauge wider than 1,435 mm.

Significance

The project will enable great contribution to the smooth, hassle-free exchange of people between the two countries.

Indo-Nepal relationship

- India's relations with Nepal are undergoing tricky phase after the Kalapani dispute, in which Nepal showed the region as part of its territory.
- However, the two countries have continued their engagement through trade, economic and infrastructure collaboration.

NOTES

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